

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT
COURT
DISTRICT OF MARYLAND**

**CHAMBERS OF
J. MARK COULSON
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

**101 WEST LOMBARD STREET
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201
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December 2, 2020

LETTER TO ALL COUNSEL

Re: *Andresen v. Allstate Indemnity Company*
Civil No. 18-cv-01920-JMC

MEMORANDUM TO COUNSEL

The following schedule shall govern this case.

December 4, 2020	Deadline for submitting joint pretrial order; any legal trial memoranda on the claims (at the option of counsel) and any limitation of evidence, if necessary
November 2, 2021 at 10 a.m.	Pretrial conference telephone call to be initiated by Counsel. Counsel are to jointly call into Chambers.
November 8, 2021	2-day jury trial to begin (courtroom to be determined)

Set forth below are instructions pertinent to your pretrial and trial preparation.

Guaranteeing Witness Availability

Absent emergency circumstances, a party will guarantee the presence at trial of any witness that party lists in the pretrial order, in accordance with Local Rule 106.2.i., as “expecting to present” at trial.

Exhibits

Please be prepared to advise me at the pretrial conference if there are any objections to the documents and exhibits listed in the pretrial order in accordance with Local Rule 106.2.g. Any objections not disclosed at that time, other than objections under Fed. R. Evid. 401 and 403, shall be deemed waived at trial, unless excused for good cause shown. Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(3).

All exhibits must be tagged and numbered prior to trial in accordance with Local Rule 106.7.a. You must meet with one another prior to trial to review and make available for copying one another's exhibits in accordance with Local Rule 106.7.b.

Copies of the parties' proposed exhibits must be in a three-ring binder. The parties should attempt to agree on the admissibility of all exhibits and inform the Court of those exhibits about which agreement cannot be reached. Those exhibits will be discussed at the pretrial conference. The parties should provide, in addition, impeachment exhibits each intends to offer into evidence at trial. Impeachment exhibits need not be disclosed to other parties.

Use of Courtroom Equipment

The court has available for your use an electronic evidence presentation system, as well as a DVD player and video monitors. Please be prepared to advise me at the conference if you would like to use any courtroom technologies at trial.

Trial Instructions

Please read carefully the attached memorandum entitled "Instructions to Counsel Regarding Trial Procedure and Conduct." You are responsible for knowing the contents of these instructions and all of the provisions of Local Rule 107 concerning trial conduct.

Settlement

Unless the court is notified of any settlement no later than one full business day prior to the day on which the trial is scheduled to begin, jury costs will be imposed in accordance with Local Rule 107.4. Ordinarily, in civil cases 25–28 potential jurors are called as members of the venire panel and the cost per juror is approximately \$70.

Although informal, this is an Order of the Court and shall be docketed as such.

_____/s/_____
J. Mark Coulson
United States Magistrate Judge

**INSTRUCTIONS TO COUNSEL
REGARDING TRIAL PROCEDURE AND CONDUCT¹**

1. Efficient Use of Courtroom Time

You must always be on time. You must anticipate objections in order to avoid unnecessary bench conferences. If a jury is present, virtually every minute should be spent taking testimony.

2. Exhibits

- A. You must pre-mark exhibits.
- B. You should not formally move exhibits into evidence. Under Local Rule 107.5.b they are admitted when they are first mentioned during the questioning of a witness unless the opposing party objects or unless the party mentioning them asks that they be marked for identification only.
- C. You may circulate exhibits to the jury without asking permission of the court provided you then continue with questioning.
- D. If you plan to use exhibit books, you must first confer with opposing counsel about their contents and bring to the attention of the court any matters in dispute. You must provide copies for one lawyer per party, a copy for the witness, a copy for the judge, and (at your option) a copy for each juror.

3. Witnesses

- A. You must treat witnesses with courtesy and respect and address them by their surnames (except persons under the age of 18).
- B. You may not appear to address yourself to jurors when questioning a witness.

4. Prohibited Questions and Remarks

- A. You may not ask a witness whether it “would surprise you to know” that a certain event occurred.
- B. You may not ask “if I were to tell you that another witness testified to a certain fact, would you disagree with him?” (or “was she lying?” or “not telling the truth?”)
- C. You may not remind a witness that he is under oath or ask whether he expects the jury to believe his testimony.

5. Movement In The Courtroom

- A. You must stand when addressing the court.
- B. You may (unless recording or amplification equipment otherwise requires) ask

¹ These instructions are based in part on Local Rule 107. You must be fully familiar with all of the provisions of that Rule.

questions of a witness from any fixed location in the well of the court but you may not ask questions while pacing around the courtroom.

- C. You may approach a witness to show an exhibit without prior approval of the court but may not do so for any other reason.
- D. When addressing jurors, you must stand a respectful distance away from them.

6. Objections

You may not make speaking objections or, unless invited to do so by the court, argue rulings in front of the jury.

7. Opening Statements and Closing Arguments

- A. Unless otherwise ordered by the court, no opening statement or closing argument (including rebuttal argument) shall exceed one hour.
- B. You must show opposing counsel any exhibit or demonstrative aid you intend to display to the jury during opening statement or closing argument and any new demonstrative aid you intend to display during closing argument.
- C. During closing argument you may not state your personal opinion as to the merits of your case, the credibility of a witness, or the culpability of a civil litigant, or guilt or innocence of an accused.

8. Exclusion of Witnesses Rule and Talking to Witnesses on the Stand

Local Rule 107.7 describes the meaning of the exclusion of witness (sequestration) rule. Local Rule 107.14 describes when counsel may talk to a witness on the stand.

9. Beeper, Pagers and Portable Telephones

You must turn off (and instruct your clients and witnesses to turn off) all audible beepers, pagers, and portable telephones before entering the courtroom.

10. Food and Drink

You may not bring any food or drink (other than water) into the courtroom. If you want to use bottled water, you must pour it into the pitchers provided by the court.

11. Use of Courtroom Telephone Prohibited

You may not use the courtroom telephone unless authorized by the court.